Kentucky Department of Education
Science Adoption 2008-2014

Provided by the Publisher				Provided by the Publisher
ISBN - **9780153638589**		Publisher - **Harcourt School Publishers (HSP)**		
Kentucky Student Edition				
Type - P1	Author - Bell, et al			
Copyright - 2009	Edition - First	Readability - 3.2		
Course -		Grade(s) - 3		
Teacher Edition ISBN if applicable			**9780153638640**	

Overall Recommendation: ☒ **Recommended as Basal**

Overall Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

The basal addresses most of the Kentucky standards, however it is a little weak in the big idea, "biological change" as aligned with the program of studies fossil statements. The text is student friendly with generous use of color and illustrations. There is a strong emphasis on inquiry at several levels and assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. The teachers guide is teacher friendly with exact copies of the student pages surrounded by resources for the teachers. Good discussion questions are provided. The success of the inquiry in this text requires the use of materials that can be obtained locally. Some internet resources referenced in the teachers guide require a license.

CRITERIA
This basal resource …

A. Encompasses KY Content Standards & Grade Level Expectations	☒ **Strong Evidence** ☐ **Moderate Evidence** ☐ **Little or No Evidence**

☐ Text is designed to be used in an elective course outside the Program of Studies

1) Includes the 7 Big Ideas of science to the following extent:

a)	Structure and Transformation of Matter	☒ Strong	☐ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
b)	Motion and Forces	☒ Strong	☐ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
c)	The Earth and the Universe	☒ Strong	☐ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
d)	Unity and Diversity	☒ Strong	☐ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
e)	Biological Change	☐ Strong	☒ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
f)	Energy Transformation	☐ Strong	☒ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A
g)	Interdependence	☒ Strong	☐ Moderate	☐ Little	☐ N/A

2) Addresses content-specific enduring ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

understandings from the related Program of Studies standards.

3) **Addresses content-specific skills and concepts from the related Program of Studies standards.** ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

4) **Content addressed is current, relevant and non-trivial** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

5) **Provides opportunities for critical thinking/reasoning** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

6) **Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:**
- Specific strengths-which areas/concepts are covered exceptionally well?
- Specific weaknesses-which areas/concepts would likely require supplementing?

The basal aligns well with Kentucky standards. The fossil Program of Studies statements in Biological change are not fully addressed and there were very few hands-on electricity activities. Critical thinking/reasoning activities are in both the teacher and student texts, however, successful implementation depends on the skill of the teacher. Kentucky science standards are referenced in the back of the student text and teachers guide.

B. Functionality & Suitability	☐ **Strong Evidence** ☐ **Moderate Evidence** ☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) **Suitability** ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Should be suitable for use with a diverse population and is free of bias regarding race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, social and/or geographic environment; is free of stereotyping or bias of any kind.

2) **Content quality** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Free from factual errors
- Content is presented conceptually when possible—more than a mere collection of facts
- Content included accurately represents the knowledge base of the discipline
- Theories/scientific models contained represent a broad consensus of the scientific community

3) **Connections to Literacy** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little
Note: may apply to either student or teacher editions

- Employs a variety of reading levels and is grade/level appropriate
- Contains pre, during, post reading activities
- Provides opportunities for summarizing, reviewing, and reinforcing vocabulary skills and concepts at multiple levels of difficulty for a variety of learning styles.
- Student text provides opportunity to integrate reading and writing
- Uses vocabulary that is age and content appropriate
- Focuses on critical vocabulary vs. extensive lists
- Identifies key vocabulary through definitions in both text and glossary

- Engaging text- does the text facilitate learning?
- Does understanding the text require having performed the imbedded activities?

4) Connections to Technology ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Integrates technology and reflects the impact of technological advances
- Uses technology in the collection and/or manipulation of authentic data

5) Support for Diverse Learners ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides support for ESL students
- Provides support for differentiation of instruction in diverse classrooms
  Note: may apply only to teacher edition

6) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

This basal is essentially free of errors. The student text has connections to vocabulary, reading, writing and other content areas. The teachers guide provides additional connections across the curriculum. Each chapter starts with a guided inquiry activity and essential question. In addition there are insta-labs and independent inquiry activities in the student text. Many chapters have an article from the weekly reader. The teachers guide references technology resources on the web. However, full web access may require purchasing a license. Limited ESL support is provided in the teachers guide.

C. Supports Inquiry and Skill Development	☒ **Strong Evidence** ☐ **Moderate Evidence** ☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) Promotes Inquiry, research and Application of Learning ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities for inquiry and research that includes activities such as self-selecting topics, formulating authentic questions, gathering information, researching resources, observing, interviewing, and evaluating information, analyzing and synthesizing data and communicating findings and conclusions.
- Requires students to use higher-level cognitive skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, etc.)
- Provides activities and projects for students to deepen their knowledge and cultivate and strengthen problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Provides opportunities for application of learned concepts.
- Uses a variety of relevant charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, and other illustrations to invite and motivate students to engage in discussion, problem solving, and other high-order thinking skills.
- Emphasizes conceptual understandings that invite students to predict, conclude, evaluate, develop and extend ideas to support reasoning.
  Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Skill Development ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities to make sense of data

- Provides opportunities for critical thinking and reasoning (analyze arguments, distinguish fact/opinion, recognize bias)
- Provides opportunities to examine a range of types of evidence
- Contains embedded activities (or extensions) that emphasize use of technology for problem solving
  Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

Both the student text and the teachers guide place a strong emphasis on inquiry. Inquiry is scaffolded moving from directed inquiry to guided inquiry, and on to independent inquiry. The science process skill development is apporpriate for third grade learners. The investigations require collecting materials that are available locally. Skipping the investigations would seriously compromise the potential learning of the students.

D. Supports Best Practices of Teaching and Learning	☒ **Strong Evidence** ☐ **Moderate Evidence** ☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) Engages Students ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes content geared to the needs, interests, and abilities of students
- Engages and motivates students using components such as real-life situations, simulations, experiments, and data gathering.
- Includes information and activities that assist students in seeing relevance of concepts (where appropriate) to their own lives and experiences
- Provides a variety of strategies, activities, and materials to enhance student learning at the appropriate learning levels
- Activities are truly congruent to the concepts addressed, not merely correlated
  Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Uses Assessment to Inform Instruction ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes multiple means of assessment as an integral part of instruction
- Provides evaluation measures in the teacher edition that supports differentiated learning activities
- Embedded assessments reflect a variety of Depth of Knowledge levels
  Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards

The investigations and follow-up questions are designed to engage the students in the processes of science and inquiry. Multiple means of assessment are embedded in the lessons and activities.

E. Has an Organization/ Format that Supports Learning and Teaching	☒ Strong Evidence ☐ Moderate Evidence ☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Organizational Quality ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Print and/or electronic materials present minimal barriers to learners
- Presents chapters/lessons in an organized and logical sequence
- Provides clearly stated objectives for each lesson.
- Uses text features (e.g., titles, headings, subheadings, review questions, goals, objectives, space, print, type size, color) to enhance readability.
- Makes use of various forms of media (e.g., CD's, recordings, videos, cassette tapes, computer software, web-based components) as either student or teacher resources
- Includes clear, accurate, appropriate and clearly explained illustrations and/or graphics that reinforce content standards.
- Incorporates a glossary, footnotes, recordings, pictures, and/or tests that aid pupils and teachers in using the book effectively
- Uses grade-appropriate type size

Included media are durable, easy to use and have technical merit

- Construction appears to be durable and able to withstand normal use

2) Essential Components (beyond student and teacher text) ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Items identified as essential components support the learning goals and concept coverage of the basal

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

The text is student friendly with extensive use of color and illustrations. It is well organized and easy to follow. No media is provided with the basal, but the teachers guide suggests some web resources. Some web resources are not available without a license.

F. Has available Ancillary/ Gratis Materials *Note: The decision whether to recommend or not recommend this resource as a basal should not be influenced by Section F*	☐ Strong Evidence ☒ Moderate Evidence ☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Ancillary/Gratis Materials

- Coordinates teacher resources easily with student material (e.g., accompaniments included, student pages shown, instructional technology indicated).
- Are well-organized and easy to use
- Provide substantive learning opportunities and are congruent with student learning goals
- Provide opportunities for high-level thinking, assessment, and/or problem solving

2) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

Leveled readers and an inquiry tool kit are available for purchase. The "free with purchase" materials include colored vocabulary and picture sorting cards, daily inquiry transparencies, teaching resources, health activity book, ESL support, reading support and homework, teaching transparencies, lab manual, and assessment guide. Depending on the the needs of the teacher, these items could be very useful. However the "free with purchase" materials must be requested from the publisher. The assessment guide and lab manual need to be included as essential components.